



RINCON HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2005



NEWS ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FROM THE RINCON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

If you have been reading your newsletters or going to recent neighborhood meetings, you will know that Rincon Heights is in the process of seeking funding to implement improvements recommended by the Drachman Institute in its master plan for our neighborhood. The Plan Implementation Team (PIT) has been meeting every three weeks to explore funding sources and to decide which projects to seek funding for.



Amongst the projects being considered are: landscaping and sidewalks throughout the neighborhood, improved lighting, traffic calming devices, a neighborhood park, and street width reduction on 9th and 10th Streets. The funding we are now seeking will not cover all projects, so we need to decide which will be of most benefit to the neighborhood. Cost factor and "bang for the buck" is one criterion by which the team is evaluating the projects; some, such as lighting and sidewalks are very expensive while others, such as landscaping, are relatively cheap.

Another consideration is that some projects address the needs of the whole neighborhood while others will disproportionately benefit property-owners or residents of particular streets. Additionally, we are looking at the various projects in regard to how they address long-held RHNA values such as: sense of place and

its history, environmental sensitivity, safety, beautification, vibrant community, neighborliness, and diversity.

We are working hard to obtain funding for these exciting improvements, but our success in obtaining grants and of eventual implementation depends upon support from the neighborhood at large. That means you! Yes, we need you! We need your interest, support, and participation to realize these improvements.

What you can do:

- * Visit the online forum to view the Neighborhood Improvement plan and participate in discussions at <http://forum.rinconheights.org>. The "PIT Crew" meets regularly, and you can find meeting information as well as project options, locations, and rankings.
- * Attend RHNA monthly meetings. Anyone who resides, owns property, or operates a business within Rincon Heights is welcome to attend. You do not need be a property owner or dues-paying member to vote at a neighborhood association meeting. Renters, students, old-timers, youngsters, rich and poor are truly welcomed. We meet at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Ha:san Preparatory School, at the northwest corner of 10th Street and Highland Avenue. (See schedule on page four.) The cafeteria is on the second floor at the top of the stairs/ramp leading from the parking lot off of Highland.

(by Melody Peters, RH neighbor and member of PIT Crew)

STURM RISING

The first thing you see are the wildflowers dancing in the breeze, painting the front yard with moving color. An appropriate greeting to the home of artists, Carrie and Allan Sturm. When you step into the home they bought two years ago you can immediately see the character of the place, which Carrie and Allan are continuing to shape with keen eye and skillful hands.

This remodeling and restoring of the home built in 1932 is an easy extension for Carrie, who has developed her own business helping homeowners beautify their living environments. She works with a designer's eye from using color washing and faux finishes to intricate room border treatments and furniture makeovers to bring the place to life.

Allan's artistic inclinations find their expression in digital graphics. In 1980 he walked into a Radio Shack, put his fingers on their Color Computer, and stayed there. Well, almost. Every day he would ride his bike to the shop and the manager would let him sit in front of this new instrument, using Radio Shack books and manuals to teach himself programming and other skills he would build upon to tap into the potential of digital technology.

From St. Louis to Kansas City ever moving westward, the Sturms ended up in Tucson 10 years ago. "It was like we were on Route 66, but didn't know it," Carrie explains. They liked the wide open skies, where you are just 20 minutes away from pitching a tent in the desert and spending the evening in a more peaceful place.

Allan continued to hone his skills at Pima Community College, where he took every digital arts course that the College offered. After a string of design jobs, he went to work for a dot com company, rising to the position of creative director. That company changed into a software development firm, where he continued to apply his graphic and software design skills. Recently he left the company to start his own business, which is allowing him to pursue his dream of creating 3-D animations and visual effects. His clients are anyone who wants to see data and concepts in motion - to get a picture of what an idea would look like moving through space and time. He was asked by Pima to return there, now as an adjunct faculty member who teaches 3D animation.

Carrie and Allan see Rincon Heights as a neighborhood that is building momentum to move forward. They are attracted to the historic character of the homes and are pleased to see the value of those homes continuing to increase over the last few years. They have both become active members of the Neighborhood Association. They want to help Rincon Heights create a solid identity, to become a place where neighbors take pride in the place where they live.

Carrie, an excellent vegetarian chef, brings great food and strong leadership to the effort to help develop the Rincon Heights neighborhood plan. Allan is designing the neighborhood web site and the online neighborhood forum to provide neighbors with an additional means to communicate with each other.

They believe in jumping in the boat and helping to row. With their talents and sense of purpose the ship of Rincon Heights is headed in a good direction.

by Mark Homan, RH neighbor

U OF A RECREATION CENTER - PROPOSED EXPANSION

The University of Arizona is in the first stages of planning an expansion to the Recreation Center. The proposed expansion would cover what is now the parking lot between Vine and Cherry Avenues, and 6th and 7th Streets.

There is concern about the impact on the neighborhood resulting from the Center's planned expansion. Two immediate issues are the construction schedule and activities, and the reduction of parking spaces during construction and after reopening.

The Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association is requesting that the Director of the Recreation Center and appropriate representatives attend one or more of the neighborhood monthly meetings to discuss this project. At this writing, there is no definite date(s); however, there will be opportunities for neighbors to learn more about the expansion plans and to express concerns they may have. Please take the time to participate.

by Don Davis, RH neighbor

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NEIGHBOR COUPON!

Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association yearly dues of \$10.00 per household are asked for the RHNA treasury (which goes back into your neighborhood - no officers or other volunteers are paid for their time).

Expenses include the RHNA post office box, non-profit filing fee with the Arizona Corporation Commission, and items for the annual Neighborhood Night Out/pot luck.

Name / Address: _____

Phone Number / Email: _____

Please make check or money order to Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association and mail contribution and this form to:

Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 44194
Tucson, AZ 85733-4194

STUFF (GAME SHOW EDITION)

THE MATCH GAME: Above average rainfall this past winter almost engulfed our neighborhood in monstrous weeds. Props and kudos go to those who tended to their properties in timely fashion. However, there were some residences that remained neglected, several of those being unattended since last fall. So, once again, the City of Tucson has been asked to mail notice letters to certain owners or property managers. (No, we're not TATTLETALES.) Remember: A nice-looking neighborhood prevents everyone's property values from being in JEOPARDY. Don't be THE WEAKEST LINK.

And the PASSWORD is: sidewalks. I'm pretty sure that anyone who

drives took a test to get a license. And, at some point, probably read the manual or took a class to get a clue as to what's legal and what's not. A reminder then: Parking on a sidewalk or in a sidewalk area that obstructs pedestrian traffic is illegal. Please respect that there are people afoot. TO TELL THE TRUTH, people out walking are part of our neighborhood's ambiance.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL: If you can give back to your neighborhood, great! That can mean anything from attending a monthly meeting to bringing in your trash and recycle cans after pickup to maintaining your yard to picking up after your pet to driving and parking responsibly. You can also help by donating \$10 to the Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association treasury (see coupon). **THE PRICE IS RIGHT.**

The next issue of this newsletter will be produced in August for September mailing. Thus, **THE \$64,000 QUESTION:** Would you consider contributing an article? It only takes a mix of a desire to share something you know about our neighborhood and a bit of **CONCENTRATION** to write it down. No need to **BEAT THE CLOCK.** Lay this issue aside for now and revisit it in July.

WHAT'S MY LINE? Congratulations to this year's University of Arizona graduates. May you have many opportunities come your way. And may you have more than fulfilled your academic requirements. **I'VE GOT A SECRET:** It's now **TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES.**

by Michael Carson, RH neighbor

YOUR RHNA OFFICERS

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The Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association meets at 7 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at Ha:sañ School at Highland and 10th St. Please try to attend and learn more about your neighborhood. Upcoming dates are:

May 17 June 21

July (no meeting)

August 16 September 20

October (Neighborhood Night Out/pot luck)

Questions, comments, suggestions, and offers of personal or financial involvement are welcome. Please write to Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 44194, Tucson, AZ 85733-4194. You may also leave a day message for Michael Carson, newsletter producer, at 792-1770.

The City of Tucson, its officers and employees, its Department of Neighborhood Resources, and all other offices neither agree nor disagree with the views expressed or implied in this communication and are not responsible therefor; the distribution requestor is solely responsible.

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